

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB-63 for Paid Sick Days
Labor and Public Employees Committee

02/06/10

Testimony to the Labor Committee:

I have been working at a restaurant as a waiter for the past 10 years and still do not get paid sick days. Often, I have no choice but to go in to work when I am sick because I cannot afford to lose a day's worth of pay. I have two young children, one that is 4 years old and the other 6 years old, that I have to take care of and support, and at that age the need to be taken care of sometimes. A full week's paycheck is especially important to me and my family. Since I do not have paid sick days I have to go to the restaurant and serve people their food even when I do not feel well.

It is especially important for workers in restaurants to get paid sick days because germs can easily be spread to food. I do not want to spread sicknesses to the customers or to my coworkers. If I had paid sick days I would be able stay home and rest and recover from my illness faster. You should see our kitchen when it's flu season, with half of us walking around and sniffing and coughing. With the majority of people living on a tight budget in this economy, many of these people come in to work to serve your food, in order to get their full paycheck.

I ask you to support paid sick days. Please support paid sick day legislation this year, it is very important for workers such as myself, and also for the customers, as it is an issue of public health.

Thank you,

Augusta Cantadori

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